

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-67. (Cancelled)

68. (new) A sealing mechanism for a waste storage container, the waste storage container having a body, a lid and a cartridge adapted to be positioned in the body, the cartridge having a continuous length of storage film therein, the storage film emanating through a gap between a rim and a core tube of the cartridge and being folded down through a core opening in the core tube into an interior space of the body of the waste storage container, the sealing mechanism comprising:

- an actuator accessible from outside of the body;
- a gear assembly operably connected to said actuator;
- a retaining assembly that holds stationary a dispensed portion of the storage film in the interior space of the body during a twist-closure operation; and
- a plunger operably connected to said gear assembly, wherein actuation of said actuator causes said gear assembly to rotate said cartridge and twist the storage film, and wherein said plunger lowers the storage film when said actuator is actuated.

69. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 68, wherein said retaining assembly is one or more retention springs connected to the body of the waste storage container, and wherein a distal end of said one or more retention springs is positioned under and aligned with the core opening in the core tube of the cartridge.

70. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 68, wherein said one or more retention springs is a plurality of retention springs

equi-distantly positioned along an inner circumference of the body of the waste storage container.

71. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 68, further comprising a motor engaged with said gear assembly for rotating the cartridge.

72. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 68, further comprising:  
    a first linkage connected to said plunger;  
    a second linkage connected to said first linkage; and  
    a drive rod operably connected to said second linkage  
and said gear assembly, wherein movement of said drive rod causes said second linkage to move radially with respect to the body thereby causing said plunger to move longitudinally with respect to the body through the core opening of the cartridge and causing lowering of the storage film.

73. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 72, wherein said first linkage is a scissors linkage assembly.

74. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 73, wherein said second linkage is a slideable linkage.

75. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 74, wherein movement of said drive rod is rotational.

76. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 72, further comprising a rotary twister that is a ring in contact with the cartridge, wherein said plunger passes through said ring when lowering the storage film.

77. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 76, wherein said rotary

twister is substantially concentrically aligned with the body of the waste storage container.

78. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 76, wherein said rotary twister is substantially concentrically aligned with a holding ring that positions the cartridge.

79. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 76, wherein said rotary twister is substantially concentrically aligned with and positioned above a holding ring that positions the cartridge.

80. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 68, further comprising:

a rotary twister having a gripping surface that contacts a top of the cartridge for rotation thereof.

81. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 80, wherein said rotary twister is a ring, and wherein said plunger passes through said ring when lowering the storage film.

82. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 81, wherein said rotary twister is substantially concentrically aligned with the body of the waste storage container.

83. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 82, wherein said rotary twister is substantially concentrically aligned with a holding ring that positions the cartridge.

84. (new) The sealing mechanism of claim 83, wherein said rotary twister is positioned in an upper portion of the body of the waste storage container.